

"I did not live an extraordinary life, but I lived the life I chose. I chose the man I adored to marry, and I loved the man I chose. And we raised the three most beautiful and joyous boys. I was born into a beautiful family with two sisters and a brother. I was blessed with the best life raising my joyous boys, and they kept me laughing all the way. I had meaningful work, through which I developed some of my best friends.

I enjoyed being on the staff of the Land Alliance, and I loved my service to the Glen Cove Hospital and the North Country Garden Club.

I lived my life well and I lived in peace. My many friends have been caring and generous to me; and I will miss them all greatly."

Barbara's devotion to her family and our community will be sorely missed. While she leaves behind large shoes to fill, she also leaves behind a life to aspire to.

HONORING THE GREATER HARLEM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. ADRIANO ESPAILLAT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2018

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation in honor of The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce:

Whereas, The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce has been a steadfast presence in Harlem since its establishment in 1896 originally chartered as the Harlem Board of Commerce; and later to the Uptown Chamber of Commerce to better represent itself as the first and ongoing business organization in Upper Manhattan; and now as the omnipresent Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce;

Whereas, The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce has been committed to Harlem and Upper Manhattan with a demonstrated focus on commercial development, educational services, as well as special attention to arts & culture, travel, and tourism;

Whereas, The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce for over 130 years has been a key community stakeholder integral to the development of major infrastructure including the construction of the George Washington and Tri-Borough Bridges connecting Manhattan to the outer boroughs and New Jersey and New York's first subway line, the IRT (No. 2 & 3 Train);

Whereas, The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce brought Harlem out of the Great Depression and into the national discourse as a beacon of social-commentary and expression through the Harlem Renaissance and home to the 1939 World's Fair;

Whereas, The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce has been at the vanguard of the development and revitalization of Harlem including Strivers Gardens, an extraordinary example of mixed-use residential and commercial development projects, and the Striver's Center Development Project that has been a tremendous benefit to the community at large;

Whereas, The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce to elevate Harlem, created a singular celebration of Harlem's unique culture and history which began as "Harlem Day" and has since grown and scale and breadth to "HARLEM WEEK". This extraordinary celebra-

tion of Harlem Life features a diversity of cultural events: Afro-Cuban, Gospel, R & B, and Jazz music, sports, cinema, business fairs and vintage automobiles, and a unique "Taste of Harlem" at local eateries and clubs. In 2017, Harlem Week attracted more than 3.5 million people. In 2018, it included the celebration of Aretha Franklin's legacy and featuring Janet Jackson as an honoree;

Whereas, The visionary leadership including Lloyd Williams, President and CEO; Voza Rivers, 1st Vice President; Andrew Reddick; Michele Scott; and, Valerie Roberson among others who have lent their talent and passion to the concern for the next generation; acknowledging historical contributions of Women and LGBTQ in the African-American community as well as creating opportunities for recruiting youth to be trainees for Wall Street firms;

Now, therefore I, ADRIANO ESPAILLAT, Representative of the Thirteenth Congressional District of New York in the United States House of Representatives, do hereby recognize The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce and its long history and contributions to the vitality of Harlem's economic growth, arts & culture, educational institutions, health awareness, and mixed-use residential-commercial developments as well as to the creation of HARLEM WEEK which has a local and global impact, and commitment to strengthening ties to the Harlem community during the "End of the Year" Holiday Gala Reception, on Tuesday, December 18 2018.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2018

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately was unable to be present for a vote taken on the House floor on December 20, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Rollcall Vote No. 472: nay.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF BONG'S JEWELERS

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2018

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the legacy of Bong's Jewelers in Corning, New York.

For the last one hundred and twenty-six years the residents of Corning have celebrated birthdays, engagements, weddings, and anniversaries with gifts from Bong's Jewelers. Founded by two brothers in 1892, Bong's has been run by the family for generations, helping the people of Corning celebrate their happiest occasions.

It is with a heavy heart that I recognize the final closing of this community institution. Jeff Bong has owned the family shop since 1975 and after more than forty years of hard work and success, Jeff has announced his well-deserved retirement.

Having known Jeff and his family for decades, he represents a pillar of our community

that will be sorely missed with the closing of his business. However, I know his ties to our community will endure and we are forever grateful for his efforts and commitment to all of us.

We wish the Bongs well in their retirement and thank them for their service to our community.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to honor Bong's Jewelers, a family-owned business of the Corning community for the last one hundred and twenty-six years.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALEM NEWS

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100-year anniversary of the Salem News, the local newspaper of my hometown—Salem, Missouri. The Salem News began operations on June 13, 1918, with O.H. Grosse as the owner/publisher and M.W. Gustin as the editor. For \$1.50 subscription, you could enjoy the newspaper for an entire year. The late Charles Stacey, Robert L. "Bob" Vickery and W.R. "Ray" Vickery also served as publishers of the Salem News, a position currently held by Donald Dodd.

Very few businesses reach 100 years of existence. This is a testament to the staff for consistently providing relevant and timely information to the community. Today, it is my great privilege to congratulate and honor the Salem News before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING JAMES "CHIEF" WILSON

HON. VAL BUTLER DEMINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2018

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legend in the Orlando community—the peerless James "Chief" Wilson.

Mr. Wilson was father to two daughters, but a father figure for thousands. As band leader at Jones High School—a program he built from scratch into one of the finest programs in the country—he brought a lifetime of learning, music, and joy to his students and his community.

Mr. Wilson was famous not only for his high expectations, but for his lifelong advocacy for the young men and women in his care. He helped them prepare for college and win scholarships. He stayed in touch with them for years after they graduated. Many credit him with turning their lives around.

Simply put, he was a role model. He provided the guidance that only an incredible teacher can give. Telling his pupils that "perfect practice makes perfect performance," he cultivated an attitude of excellence in his students that would last a lifetime.

But underneath the demand for excellence and the incredible legacy that he built, there was also the man himself—a man whom his

children described as a “kid at heart.” A man who loved music, Christmas lights, and the old car which he used to give rides to students and take his family on road trips.

“Chief” Wilson never met a stranger, and he remembered his students when he crossed paths with them years later. A faithful member of Washington Shores Presbyterian Church, a homeowner in the Washington Shores community for over 50 years, and a charter member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., his roots were deep.

He will be missed by all. But I know that his positive influence will live on in his students, his program, and his incredible legacy for years to come.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT WILLIAM M. BAYS

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2018

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Sergeant William M. Bays, a beloved father and respected American hero who lost his life on June 10, 2017.

Born October 17, 1987, in Barstow, California, Sergeant Bays valiantly rose through the ranks since enlisting in the United States Army in 2009, eventually serving as a squad leader with D Company, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division.

Sergeant Bays' reputation of steadfast selflessness, along with the numerous awards he earned for his service—including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart—are evidence of his relentless dedication to safeguarding our nation's freedoms and values. His patriotic spirit and dedication to his country were rivaled only by his fervent commitment to his family and his enthusiasm for serving others.

I join with his family and loved ones—including his wife, Jasmin Bays, his children, and his extended family—in celebrating his accomplishments and recognizing his noble service to our nation. His outstanding legacy of patriotism and compassion lives on in each member of his family and in all those who knew him.

I am grateful for the Kentucky General Assembly's dedication of this roadway in the 1st District of Kentucky, as it will serve as a testament to his extraordinary sacrifice, which is worthy of our deepest respect and admiration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber on Thursday, December 20, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on roll call votes 448, 455, 461, 466, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, and 482. I would have voted “nay” on roll call vote 467.

Specifically, for roll call vote 448, the First Step Act, I would have voted “yea” enthusiastically in support of this legislation. Despite

my delay in making it to the House floor, I would have supported this legislation due to the reforming of decades old policies that have plagued our criminal justice system.

HONORING CHIEF MICHAEL DONOVAN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Michael Donovan's forty-two years of service in California Law Enforcement.

Chief Donovan was born in Oceanside, California in 1961 and has dedicated his life to public service. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources Management and his Master's Degree in Business Administration in 1989, both from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. His commitment to public service and law enforcement has made all the communities he has served, including our community of Napa, California, a safer and better place to live.

Over the course of his career, Chief Donovan has served in many different law enforcement capacities. He was a police officer at the Sierra Madre Police Department, an Investigator at the Baldwin Park Police Department and the Assistant Chief Investigator, and later Chief Investigator, at the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office. Since 2011, Chief Donovan has served as the Chief Investigator at the Napa County District Attorney's Office. Chief Donovan is active in the law enforcement community. He currently sits on the California District Attorney Investigators' Association Board of Directors as the Treasurer and Chair of the Training Committee. He also serves on the California District Attorneys' Association Legislative Committee. Additionally, Chief Donovan is an active member in the local Napa Rotary Club and volunteers at many Rotary Club sponsored events.

Chief Donovan has remained dedicated and motivated throughout his long career in law enforcement and public service. He is always willing to take on difficult projects and help others in the office. He draws on his depth of knowledge and experience in his profession to help others in his field. Mr. Speaker, it is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2018

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on December 19, 2018 and December 20, 2018 I was absent for several roll call votes in order to attend the funeral of a family member. Had I been present I would have voted in the following manner.

Roll Call 437 Yea; Roll Call 438, the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimers Act Yea; Roll Call 439 Yea; Roll Call 440 Yea; Roll Call 441 Yea; Roll Call 442 Yea; Roll Call 443 Yea; Roll Call 444 Yea; Roll Call 445 Yea; Roll Call 446 No; Roll Call 447 No; Roll Call 448 the

First Step Act of 2018 Yea; Roll Call 449 Yea; Roll Call 450 Yea; Roll Call 451 Yea; Roll Call 452 Yea; Roll Call 453 the Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act Yea; Roll Call 454 Yea; Roll Call 455 Yea; Roll Call 456 Yea; Roll Call 457 Yea; Roll Call 458 Yea; Roll Call 459 Yea; Roll Call 460 Yea; Roll Call 461 Yea; Roll Call 462 Yea; Roll Call 463 Yea; Roll Call 464 Yea; Roll Call 465 Yea; Roll Call 466 Yea; Roll Call 467 No; and Roll Call 468 No.

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DAVID FATTAH, SR.

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 21, 2018

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an influential and dedicated man from Philadelphia, David Fattah, Sr., a devoted servant of the community and his family. Mr. Fattah passed away on December 5, 2018. I'd like to include in the RECORD the eulogy delivered by Ralph E. Blanks, Interim Pastor of Vine Memorial Baptist Church in West Philadelphia.

“David Fattah, Senior has written the autobiography of his life. Today, we have read selected excerpts and pages from his life story. What a life extraordinaire as he and his beloved soulmate, Queen Mother Falaka Fattah made a difference in the lives of countless boys and girls thru the House of Umoja. Umoja, a Swahili word that means to strive and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race. The opposite of unity is division and division is one of the weapons the devil has used for ages to divide us mentally, physically, and spiritually. This is why a race divided against itself cannot stand. The more united we are, the stronger we become. The more divided we are, the weaker we become. Today, David Fattah's life reminds us to do all things necessary to unite and stay united. If we don't do it, it won't get done!! There are some things that only we can do for us, by us, with us and to us!!!!

Hear the words of the Lord speaking to us for this time as recorded in the book of the Prophet Isaiah chapter 58 verses 10,11,12:

If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters do not fail. And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations, you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets to dwell in.

Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr. tells of a time when two street gangs were about to go to war and David drove up in a banged up, beat up police cruiser. Jumped out and stood in the gap between the two gangs and carried out shuttle diplomacy in the “hood”.

A husband, father, grandfather, patriarch, social engineer, community activist and today we add “restorer” to describe David.

Restore means to bring back into existence; to use or reestablish; to bring back to a state of health, soundness or vigor. The communities and neighborhoods are calling out for someone like David to stand in the gap and restore civility, bring back respect,